

**Method for Lowering Both Sequence Variation and Increase  
of Base Line Effects in Diagnostic Hybridisation Assay, Assay for Performing  
Such a Method and Probe for Use in the Assay**

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to the use in a diagnostic hybridisation assay of  
a probe or a molecular beacon probe for lowering: the effect of sequence variations  
in a nucleic acid analyte, and/or the IBL effect due to the possible opening of the  
stem-loop structure of a molecular beacons by way of (contaminants in the  
amplification) enzymes, which assay comprises the steps of contacting a set of  
primers and a sample containing the nucleic acid analyte to amplify the analyte and  
detecting the amplified analyte or its complement by means of the probe, wherein  
the probe or molecular beacon probe comprises one or more nucleotides and/or  
nucleotide analogues that have an affinity increasing modification. The invention  
also relates to such probe and molecular beacon probe and to a kit for performing a  
diagnostic assay using such probe or molecular beacon probe.